



OUTREACH SERVICES

Deaf Education News

September/October
2011



State Programs Help Provide Assistive Technology

Kids Assistive Technology

The Kids Assistive Technology (KAT) program administered by Missouri Assistive Technology can help Missouri families with a child (up to the age of 21) with a disability access assistive technology when funding is not otherwise available. The KAT program can provide limited assistive technology and vehicle or home-access modification. Applications received for children in low-income families receive priority. Additional information about the KAT program can be found at <http://www.at.mo.gov/kat.html> or by contacting Eileen Belton by phone at 800-647-8557 or via email at eileen.belton@att.net.



Low Interest Loans

Missouri Assistive Technology (MOAT) offers Missouri residents of all ages with a disability a low interest financing option to purchase Assistive Technology. Residents can now apply for up to \$15,000 to purchase home access modifications, vehicle modifications, visual and hearing aids, and many other assistive technology devices and services. For more information on assistive technology loans, contact Eileen Belton, Show Me Loan Coordinator, toll free at (800) 647-8557.

A Show Me Loans application may be downloaded from the MOAT website at: <http://www.at.mo.gov/loans.html>

❖ Free Resources ❖

The Missouri School for the Deaf in Fulton offers a variety of **free** outreach services to families of Deaf or Hard of Hearing children in Missouri and to the public schools which serve them. These services include:

- Information and resources for parents and educators who work with deaf and hard-of-hearing children.
- Hearing exams and APD testing for Missouri children
- A deaf educator for consultation and school visits.
- Families First: An early intervention program for families with Deaf or Hard of Hearing children birth to five. (See below)

Phone: 573-592-2543 or 573-592-2544 Voice/TTY

E-mail: rcd@msd.k12.mo.us



UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE

Parents Working Together

For parents of children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind

SPEAKER: Karen Putz, parent and co-founder of Illinois Chapter of Hands and Voices

This meeting will provide an opportunity for parents to support one another and to work together to obtain better services for their children.

To Register, Contact: Larry Hoard: Voice: 573-592-2543

Email: larry.hoard@msd.dese.mo.gov

St. Louis

Saturday, November 12, 2011

9:30-11:30 am

CID-Central Institute for the Deaf

825 S. Taylor Avenue, St. Louis, MO

Kansas City

Sunday, November 13, 2011

2:00-4:00 pm

Children's Therapeutic Learning Ctr.

3101 Main Street, Kansas City, MO

Hand in Hand

Understanding Deafblindness for Educational Teams

This course is for educational teams serving students with combined vision and hearing losses. The course is composed of three face-to-face sessions, self-study, action planning, and onsite assistance/mentoring.

Participants will apply course content (visual/auditory impairment and communication needs) as they plan the educational programs for the deafblind student(s) they serve. The three class sessions will be in Cape Girardeau at Cape Girardeau School District, 301 N. Clark Street; October 26-28, 2011; January 25-26, 2012; and, April 18-19, 2012. College credit is available.

Registration forms are posted at: <http://www.msb.dese.mo.gov/> and click on Resources to Schools, Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project, Training Opportunities.

For questions, contact: Susan Bonner, Project Coordinator, MSB at (314) 776-4320 ext. 3255 or susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: A student with a unilateral hearing loss has enrolled in our district. Since he has good auditory/oral communication skills, are special education services needed?

Answer: It depends on how the student is progressing academically. Research indicates that hearing loss in one ear is enough to cause language problems for children. A student with this type of loss is ten times more likely to have educational difficulties as children with two normal hearing ears. One-third to one-half of students with unilateral hearing loss experience significant learning problems. Younger students often have difficulty learning sound/letter associations in typically noisy kindergarten and grade 1 settings. Results of research conducted at Washington University in St. Louis suggest that children with hearing loss in one ear should be eligible for the same accommodations as children with hearing loss in both ears. Unfortunately, up to one in twenty children don't receive the academic support they need.*



It is possible this student may be successful in his academic work without receiving special education services. If an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is not required, a 504 Plan may be set up to ensure that the child receives appropriate accommodations and assistive technology. Accommodations should be considered even if the student is making good grades in his classes.

Possible Impact on Speech and Language

- Child can “hear” but can have difficulty understanding in certain situations, such as hearing faint or distant speech.
- Child will typically have difficulty localizing sounds and voices using hearing alone.
- Child will have greater difficulty understanding speech when environment is noisy and/or reverberant.
- Child may exhibit difficulty detecting or understanding soft speech from the side of the poor hearing ear, especially in a group discussion.

Potential Educational Accommodations and Services

- Child will benefit from preferential seating, usually at the front of the class with the normal hearing ear directed toward the primary speaker.
- Child may benefit from a personal or sound-field FM system in the classroom.
- Depending on the hearing loss, child may benefit from a hearing aid in the impaired ear.
- Teacher inservice is beneficial.
- Educational and audiological monitoring is warranted.

Further information on this topic may be found through the American Speech & Hearing Association's website: <http://www.asha.org/public/hearing/disorders/UHLchildren.htm#4>

*Lieu, MD; Tye-Murray, PhD, Darzon, PhD, Piccirillo, MD; Unilateral Hearing Loss Is Associated With Worse Speech-Language Scores in Children, *Pediatrics*, May 10, 2010



Missouri School for the Deaf
505 East 5th Street
Fulton, MO 65251

Phone: 573-592-4000 V/TDD
Fax: 573-592-2570
www.msd.k12.mo.us

Resource Center on Deafness
Outreach Services
573-592-2543 V/TDD
Email Address
rcd@msd.dese.mo.gov

First Choice Not Last Resort



FAMILIES FIRST

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Parent Advisors with this program provide home visits for deaf or hard of hearing children from birth through 5 years of age. Parent Advisors offer the family information, support, and encouragement, as well as provide ideas for strategies parents may use to help a child develop in the areas of language acquisition, communication, and social and emotional skills. All services are provided free. Families must live in Missouri to qualify.

For more information:

Phone: (573) 592-2543

Website ff@msd.dese.mo.gov



MSD Outreach Services: Audiology

Dr. Alison Burco administers free hearing evaluations to Missouri children, from birth through age 21. She is available Monday-Friday for testing and consultations concerning hearing aids, FM systems, cochlear implants and other issues related to deafness. Dr. Burco can be contacted at the MSD Resource Center on Deafness, phone # 573-592-2543, voice or TDD.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH VISION AND HEARING LOSSES

Combined vision and hearing losses, even mild ones, can create major challenges for students. There are many solutions to supporting a student with combined vision and hearing losses in the classroom setting. The staff of the Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project can help identify solutions and address family concerns. Simple and appropriate modifications can often make a huge difference in student performance. The educational environment often is improved for the other students as well. For information on obtaining telephone and/or onsite technical assistance, contact Susan Bonner, Coordinator, Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project at Missouri School for the Blind, 314-776-4320, ext. 3255 or susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov.



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